



The Nigerian Society of Engineers

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COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NATIONAL ENGINEERING CONFERENCE, EXHIBITION AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NIGERIAN SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS (NSE), SUNSHINE 2015, HELD AT THE INTERNATIONAL CULTURE AND EVENTS CENTRE (DOME), AKURE, ONDO STATE, FROM 16TH - 20TH NOVEMBER, 2015

PREAMBLE

The National Engineering Conference, Exhibition and Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE) tagged SUNSHINE 2015 was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Budget and National Planning and held at the International Culture and Events Centre (Dome), Akure from 16th-20th November, 2015. The theme of the Conference was “National Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan (NIIMP) 2014: Strategies for Implementation”.

The five-day event comprised variety of activities including Opening Ceremony, Plenary and Technical Sessions. Panel Discussions and, Nigerian Content Workshop, Group Dynamics for NSE Divisions and Branches, Students’ Programme and Young Engineers Forum. The Conference was enriched with social activities that enhanced interaction amongst the participants. These included Excursions, Spouses Programme, Cultural Nite, Welfare Nite, AGM, Dinner/Dance, Engineering Games and Closing Ceremony. Being an election year, elections into the various offices, except the President, for the 2016 National Executive Members of the Society was conducted using e-voting machines. All activities were well attended by Engineers from Research and Development Centres, Academia, Industry, Federal and States Ministries, Departments & Agencies and Local Governments. Others included Policy Makers, Technocrats, Legislators, Development Partners, etc within and outside Nigeria. More than 4300 participants registered for the Conference. A total number of 22 lead papers at 8 sectoral panels as well as 32 technical papers on the various sub-themes were presented and discussed. Foreign delegates from Ghana, Rwanda, Benin Republic, Zambia, Malawi and the President of Engineering Forum of Nigerians (EFN) in UK also participated.

INTRODUCTION

The opening ceremony was chaired by the President of the Nigerian Society of Engineers, Engr. Ademola Isaac Olorunfemi, FNSE. The President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria President Muhammadu Buhari GCFR, (FNSE) was ably represented by the Secretary to the Government of Federation (SGF), Engr. Babachir David Lawal, FNSE, as Special Guest of Honour. The Executive Governor of Ondo State, His Excellency Dr. Rahman Olusegun Mimiko supported by his wife, Deputy Governor, Commissioners, State legislators and Royal fathers also graced the occasion. The Governor delivered an inspiring speech that showcased some of the infrastructural projects in the State. Other distinguished dignitaries who made presentations included the Minister of State for

Budget and National Planning, Hajiya Zainab Ahmed. The Executive Governor of the State of Osun was ably represented by Permanent Secretary Ministry of Works, Engr. Nurudeen O. Adeagbo, FNSE. The keynote address was delivered by Aare Afe Babalola, SAN, OFR, CON, FNIALS, (FNSE), Founder and President of Afe Babalola University Ado Ekiti (ABUAD), where he highlighted key issues relevant to the translation of NIIMP into real, measurable and sustainable infrastructural development for Nigeria were exposed. All the 21 corporate sponsors of the conference from the private and public sectors attended the Conference.

The high point of the ceremony included conferment of Professional and Honorary Fellowships on the SGF and three (3) distinguished Nigerians, which included HE, the Ondo State Governor, Dr. O.R. Mimiko, Aare Afe E. Babalola and Chief Dr. Innocent Chukwuma, OFR. The National Engineering Innovation Prize 2015 cash Awards of 10 Million Naira sponsored by Bank of Industry was shared among four (4) indigenous talents in manufacturing, system management, infrastructure and ICT was presented to Mr. Oyewusi Olayemi (Team MOVI) who developed mobile voting system; Mr. Onyedum Obumneme who established and successfully ran an integrated zero-waste poultry production system; Mr. Osumune O. Michael who manufactured renewable hybrid inverter system and Olufemi Odeleye who assembled the Tryctor: Nigeria’s First Mini Tractor, respectively. The opening ceremony was concluded with the presentation of the maiden edition of the NSE’s Nigerian Infrastrature Score Card and tour of the Exhibitions stands led by the representative of Mr. President, Federal Republic of Nigeria.

OBSERVATIONS

The following observations were made at the end of the Conference and Annual General meeting:

1. The conference observed and commended the Federal Government of Nigeria for the initiative to develop a 30-year N607 trillion master plan tagged National Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan (NIIMP) expected to tackle the infrastructural deficit and create millions of jobs for Nigeria’s teeming population.

2. The existence of infrastructural gaps covering both physical and social dimensions abound in all sectors as well as aspects of food production, processing, storage, marketing, etc with easy attraction of the teeming youth population to crime. The low capacity for quality inputs and service provision, low land and water productivity, low mechanization index, low storage capacity, low capacity utilization of dams, and irrigated/Fadama/valley bottom lands regards the Nation's competitiveness.
3. The acute shortage of skilled manpower to support profitable economic and commercial activities is largely caused by mass rural to urban migration, due to lack of good roads, water, electricity, housing, schools in rural areas. This is compounded by a missing link in the development and training of Engineers for professional capacity development for service delivery and succession plan for continuity.
4. There is apparent dearth of data and verifiable information on Research and Development (R & D) output to guide mainstreaming of NIIMP into National Planning and effective coordination with Sectoral National Policies as well as low institutional capacity of R&D centers to respond with appropriate technologies to drive NIIMP.
5. The nation harnesses less than one-fifth of its water resources to address the crises surrounding water supply, irrigation, industrial and other critical uses. There are some natural and hydrological infrastructures scattered in the various River Basins, which require deliberate intervention for improvement and upgrading to support diversified and sustainable production.
6. Failure of the nation to identify economic infrastructure like markets, agro-allied industries ranging from micro to small and medium scale enterprises for targeted interventions and integration with key physical infrastructure like rural roads, rail-lines, sustainable energy sources for enhanced food security at all levels.
7. Nigeria's power generation capacity is staggering at 4,000 – 5,000 MW which is inadequate infrastructure to drive industrialization. The nation's failure to meet the demand projection currently put at 20,000 MW will limit our ability to meet the nation's goals.
8. The state of the nation's power infrastructure is characterized by poor generation capacity, inadequate and insecure transmission, distribution networks with high commercial and technical losses as well as poor cost recovery. There is also inability to diversify energy sources and failure to fully utilize existing facilities due to inadequate planning among others.
9. Low private sector involvement in power project investment as a result of bankability, securitization, incentivization, enabling environment, bureaucracy challenges in obtaining licenses.
10. The housing gap of over 18million units for Nigeria's infrastructural development that still exists will likely continue to expand due to population growth dynamics with accompanying negative impacts.
11. Inadequate financing, poor funds management, excessive taxation, preference for foreign ideals inclusive of building materials and low uptake of indigenous technologies are some of the possible hindrances in the implementation of the provisions of NIIMP for housing.
12. Accessibility and right of use of land to develop housing schemes and corresponding capacity development are impeding the growth of housing stock while most of the subsisting intervention for National housing development favour the elites.
13. That infrastructure development in transportation has a direct impetus for national GDP enhancement (economic linkage and social emancipation) is even more relevant for the large and ever growing Nigerian population implying that Nigeria, as the most populated country in Africa needs to scale up its road density.
14. Poor funding, disorganized management structure and absence of legal frame work to benefit from the laudable modern approach for alternate source of funds for development and operation of transportation infrastructure, the Public Private Partnership Scheme (PPP) may be an handicap for implementing the NIIMP for transportation.
15. There usually arise conflicting, sociological and safety crises for Right of Way (ROW) acquisition for all modes of transportation including roads, railways, airports, and waterways to allow flexibility and harmonization of transportation infrastructure to conform with the modal approach.
16. The Nation experienced failure of tolling on our roads due to legal disputes, revenue leakages and unmet maintenance of the tolled roads due to poor cost recovery.
17. The national broadband policy is deficient in terms of specifying codes and standards of digital modes to ensure seamless migration and mainstreaming with tested applications.
18. There is apparent weak institutional and legal framework to guide operators, service providers, regulators, and consumers in ICT and communications sector for quality service delivery, safety compliance and enforcement sanctions.
19. Multiple regulation and taxation imposed on service providers and key operators at various levels hampers the growth of ICT infrastructure and services in four (4) critical areas of availability, accessibility, affordability and adaptability; all of which greatly impart on the credibility of this critical infrastructural facility.
20. Inadequate enabling policy, legal & regulatory and institutional framework and Government's disregard for Rule of Law scares potential investors in PPP Projects.
21. Unavailability of appropriate skills to identify project risks and develop commercially viable and bankable project proposals and inadequate supporting framework hinder acceptance and implementation of PPP projects with funds secured from private.
22. The high rate of folding up of industries across the country, affected all segments of our national life and economic growth directly impacting on the desired growth of National infrastructural stock.
23. There is a dire need for better data generation, storage, retrieval and management for an effective and strategic planning in the development and maintenance of infrastructure
24. The initiative of NSE to develop the National infrastructure score card report in order to facilitate the planning, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of NIIMP programmes and projects is highly commendable and must be improved upon and sustained over time in order to add value to NIIMP.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations emanated from the Conference and Annual General Meeting:

1. Governments at all levels should partner with the private sector to develop the capacity of both the institutes and personnel in order to ensure sustainable implementation of NIIMP. The regulatory bodies for tertiary education should partner with professional bodies to review the curricular for the various academics programmes in universities, polytechnics, vocational & technical centers in order to generate the right mix of skilled manpower to execute the different programmes and projects under NIIMP must be given priority.
2. The Research and Development centers should partner with the professional (eg NSE, NIA, NIB, etc) and regulatory (eg COR-EN,NERC,NCC, ICRC etc) bodies to deploy the required knowledge and technology in a coordinated manner to drive the NIIMP to meet the set targets in 30 years and aspirations of Nigerians.
3. The academia, professional bodies, regulatory bodies and the industry should foster functional linkages in order to acquire and deploy technology to support the implementation of NIIMP.
4. The educational institutions, regulatory and professional bodies, the private sector and industries should initiate radical reforms that will lead to the development of robust National manpower development plan necessary to support the planning, execution and management of NIIMP programmes and projects.
5. The Federal Ministry of Budget and Planning in partnership with NSE and other relevant professional bodies should integrate quality data generation and sharing in the planning, execution and management of NIIMP programmes and projects.
6. The Federal Ministry of Budget and Planning in partnership with professional bodies and industries to promote the approach of original integration and optimization of resources in the establishment of quality infrastructure for sustainability.
7. The Federal Ministry of Budget and Planning in partnership with NSE and other relevant professional bodies should promote harmonization of National capacity building programmes to ensure enhanced planning, execution and management of major NIIMP programmes and projects.
8. Professional and regulatory bodies as well as private sector should review module of opradi of engaging professionals in policy formulation programmes, projects development and implementation to address the identified challenges in NIIMP implementation. Specifically, definite roles should be defined for NSE in the on-going projects in the power, transportation, agricultural and water resources sectors as well as the general insecurity across the nation.
9. The Governments at all levels should review the enabling environment in order to harmonize conflicting issues such as multiple

taxation and encourage the operators, regulators and beneficiaries to key into PPP initiatives and leverage on the funding mechanisms to diversify financing sources in order to drive the NIIMP.

10. The professional and regulatory bodies as well as the private sector should advocate for the passage of the legislative bills on relevant issues that can directly impact on planning, execution and implementation of NIIMP programmes and projects handle by the three tiers of Government.

11. The Federal Ministry of Budget and Planning in partnership with NSE and other relevant professional bodies should champion National capacity development and strengthening of public institutions and personnel in both public and private sector in order to enhance infrastructure procurement and management in Nigeria.

12. Being the initiator of National infrastructural score card for Nigeria, NSE should partner with Federal Ministry of National Planning and other relevant stakeholders in the public and private sectors to champion the legislation of this noble initiative; setup national committee for continuous updating of the score card and promotion of the application of the package by all sundry in order to ensure quality infrastructural stock for Nigeria.

13. 2016 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

With the collaboration of NSE and the NigComSat Ltd, the Society successfully deployed E-voting, wholly developed by Nigerian Engineers, for the election of the following officers to run its affairs in 2016:

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|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Engr. Otis Anyaeji, FNSE | -President |
| Engr. Adekunle O Mokuolu FNSE | -Deputy President |
| Engr. Mrs. Margaret A. Oguntala, FNSE | -Vice President |
| Engr. Mohammed Babagana, FNSE | -Vice President |
| Engr. Giandomenico Massari, FNSE | -Vice President |
| Engr. Joseph O. Akinteye, FNSE | -Executive Committee Member |
| Engr. Dr Mrs Edith Y. Ishidi, FNSE | -Executive Committee Member |
| Engr. Mrs. Aishatu A Umar, FNSE | -Executive Committee Member |
| Engr. Mrs. N. E Eziokwu, MNSE | -Executive Committee Member |
| Engr. Adeniran F. Ibitoye, MNSE | -Executive Committee Member |
| Engr. Dauda.A. Okodugha, MNSE | -Executive Committee Member |
| Engr. Ademola I. Olorunfemi, FNSE | -Immediate Past President |
| Engr. Olusola Obadimu, MNSE | - Executive Secretary |

Engr. Olusola Obadimu, MNSE
Executive Secretary

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NOTICE! NOTICE!! NOTICE!!!

All members of NSE Port Harcourt Branch should pay their Annual Branch Dues of N5000 for Corporate Members and N7,500 for Fellows to UBA Account No. 1000183629 (Port Harcourt Main Branch). Also pay National Annual Subscription of N9,000.00 for Corporate Members & N11,500 for Fellows directly to First Bank Account No. 2020502052 & forward all tellers to the secretariat for reconciliation. All payments should be made into the bank accounts.